



A large, weathered stone lion statue is positioned in the background, looking towards the left. The statue is made of a light-colored stone and shows signs of age and wear.

YOU CAN
CERTAINLY DO IT!

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Every person can use their gifts and talents to change the world!

I had a favorite bumper sticker on my old navy blue Toyota van. It said ‘**JESUS**: Changing the world one life at a time’. And yes the ‘**JESUS**’ on the sticker was pink. Otherwise, I loved that sticker! I love even more that Jesus changes the world every day through people like you. Here are three people that changed the world for one person. I know a friend who was born-again reading C.S. Lewis’ ‘Arguments for Christianity’. I know another person who was in a public bathroom when they came across a Chick tract. Chick tracts are cartoon “turn or burn” pamphlets from the 70's and 80's. They came into God’s kingdom via a Chick Tract. Hard to believe, but true. I know another person who was born-again

after a supernatural encounter with Jesus while on LSD. That person was me. A friend prayed I would meet Jesus in an undeniable way through my dreams or through drugs. He "witnessed" to me but I was not interested as I had sinned to do. So he turned to prayer and God answered! Whether you are an intellectual seeking to convince skeptics, an edgy cartoonist seeking to shock people into the kingdom, or a non-judgmental friend believing God could use unconventional ways to reach others, you can change the world! All three creatively partnered with God to use their gifts and talents to change the world one person at a time. You have unique gifts and talents that could change the world! Do you believe that? God does and so do I.

***MUCH OF THE CHRISTIANITY I'VE
SEEN HOLDS GOD's PEOPLE BACK***

I won't speculate why, but I see the evidence all around me. People who could be living extraordinary and amazing lives choose not to. They live small, fearful, oppressed and depressed lives. They 'live for the weekend' just like everyone else. This is NOT what God intended, but if you don't check yourself

you're going to wreck yourself. God creates life everywhere. He injects hope, light, love and life into the world in every creative way imaginable. His most creative way to change the world is you!

**"Just as each of you have received a special gift (a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God), use it in serving one another as good stewards of God's multi-faceted grace (faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God's unmerited favor)."- PETER-
1Peter 4:10 (AMP)**

The Greek word for “multi-faceted” is Poikilos. The definition of Poikilos is various, of different colors, and diverse. Do you see the relationship between our God given gifts and talents and God reaching the world with His grace? The primary way God is extending his multi-faceted grace to the world is through the unique gifts and talents He has given to you. He uses nature and other means but His primary means to change the world is You! This grace I’m speaking about is not just about forgiveness of sins. It is about so much more! God's grace reveals beauty, releases hope, makes you feel welcomed, and replaces sorrow with laughter just to name a few

TIME for ACTION

Tomorrow when you awake come into agreement with 1 peter 4:10, out loud. There is a spiritual principle when we verbalize something out loud. It has power. Paul set up a pattern not only for salvation but for establishing God's truth in your life in Romans 10:10. If you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart the truth about salvation, but also His truth about other areas then you will be changed.

Every Morning confess with your mouth and believe in your heart:

- I received this (special gift) from God
- I will serve others with my (gift)
- When I (use my gift) God will extend his grace to one person
- I will experience God's JOY as I step out even more in my (gifts, talents)

Expect opposition when you start to step out in your gifts and talents!

I sinned. I don't exactly remember what I did but I remember how I felt. Church was ending and they called us up front if we wanted to pray. I rushed to the front of the church, hit my knees and buried my face on the floor. I was groveling. I was sincere but I was a mess. Then I heard the Lord speak, "Stand Up". Then I heard it again and again "Stand Up, Stand Up, Stand Up." In disbelief, I hobbled my way up to a standing position. As soon as I was standing,

it was as if God took his right hand and put it on the side of my head covering my ear and pulled me into His chest in a hug. I felt the forgiving embrace of my Father. It was tangible. I felt like a son instead of a subject fearfully approaching an angry king with bad news. I felt dignity and acceptance. It was an amazing contrast. Convicted yet hopeful, and sorrowful yet deeply loved. Then He went on to say, "I've made you to stand out". And so it was.

Everyone else was kneeing at the church altar and there I was standing. Much of my life, I have been the odd one out. The one that stands out from the crowd. As the Chinese proverb goes, "the tallest blade of grass gets cut first". Throughout my life, as I stood out from the crowd people have called me rebellious, not a team player, a weirdo, anti-authority, unqualified, undeserving, an antagonist and the list goes on. I have had to overcome these labels to be who God made me to be, one who stands out. I feel the pressure to sink into my chair, shut up and disappear. It is one of Satan's strategies against how God made me to be. But I also know it comes with the territory. As the Bible says, 'Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to

test you (that is, to test the quality of your faith), as though something strange or unusual were happening to you'- PETER 1Peter 4:12 (AMP)

When you start to make forward progress on the dreams God put in you, expect opposition. Expect attacks. Expect trouble at work, at home, in finances, with friends, etc... Especially when you first start out and your commitment to change has weak roots. The Bible talks about 'When the enemy comes in like a flood'- ISAIAH 58:19. The devil will try to overwhelm you "like a flood" in hopes you will give up and quit. Quit on these lofty, unrealistic dreams. Quit on God. Believe "if it's God then why is this so hard?" Quit on believing God is for you and loves you deeply.

TIME for ACTION

God tells us not to be ‘ignorant of the Devil’s schemes (Plans, Tactics, Approaches).’ - PAUL 2 Cor 2:11. You combat ignorance with study. You win these battles with truth:

- Study New Testament keywords: Warfare, Battle, Authority, Satan, and Overcome. This will arm you and prepare for the next round. Take your time and don’t rush.
- Study Old Testament keywords Fight, War, Battle. Read the full stories of how the Israelites engaged in Battle. Read how God delivered them in different ways in different battle. This will give insight for when the enemy comes at you.
- Read my BLOG: Playing Hurt.
<http://thekindlingfire.com/blog> Seek to learn where Satan started the attack on your life when you were young. Go back to go forward.

You need a community who will champion God in you!

If I did not have my band of brothers, I would have quit by now. Community will not come easy. You must push through the obstacles to take part. It could be your fears of what others will think of you. It could be you're viewed as offensive against others. It could be you're incorrectly sizing up the situation and convincing yourself God's people are different from you so it 'probably' won't work. Whatever your obstacles, being a part of a Godly community is worth it! As my Friend Rob says, "Must be present to win". Apparently I don't leave good first impressions. One guy told me "When I first met you I thought you were a know-it-all A-hole." We went on to become close friends as he continued to say "Now that I've gotten to know you, I like you". I liked him because while I do have the tendency to be a "know-it-all", he did not write me off. For 'faithful are the wounds of a friend (who corrects out of Love and concern)'- Prov 27:6. As I continued to hang around, God's presence in my life started to shine. He noticed and spoke up. Community lets you live honestly. You DON'T have to put your best face on. We all have ugly sides, heck; you think God didn't know that? Yet a Godly community will see you from

God's perspective and pursue the best part of God in you. We are our best within community.

TIME for ACTION!

- Join the Kindling fire Facebook Group today! <http://www.facebook.com/groups/112239559397720/> This community is for people seeking to live out their God given talent and abilities! Get all the encouragement and inspiration you can while you're on this journey.
- Seek a community close to where you live. If you don't know of one, start one. Meetup.com has been successful at helping people with similar interest get together. Take the leap and start a group at your church.
- Go to <http://www.zoweh.org/redemptivecommunity> . This 1-Pager is the best definition of a Godly community I know. Use this as a guide toward what you are shooting for.

Closing Thoughts

I don't have a grand strategy of where all this is going but I know I'm feeling compelled. I'm compelled that God's people are set free to live extraordinary lives. There is a place for you. There is a critical role for you to play. God is NOT short on positions on the team. Don't believe the lie that the only way to serve God is to be a Minister. Does it seem right that God would only have a plan for 15 Ministers out of a church of 5,000 people?! What an injustice! Your life has more weight and meaning than you realize. That is why I do what I do to remind you of that truth:

"It is my Father's glory that you bear much fruit"-
JESUS John 15:8

God is not trying to hold you back; he is trying to set you free! It honors him to

- Be fruitful in every aspect of your life.
- Have meaning in every aspect of your life.
- Extend his grace to others in every aspect of your life.

God is a God of abundance and its time you start running toward this abundant fruitful life with all your might.

“We can certainly do it!” – CALEB Numbers 13:30

If you'd like life coaching along the way, let me know. You can reach me at

troy@thekindlingfire.com

I have a process to help you:

- Identify and Hone in on your gifts and talents
- Going back to go forward with a strategy to combat lies in your life
- Identify where you are located in your journey toward fulfilling God's dreams in your life. It is not always time to 'rush the field'. Having others have eyes on your journey helps you plan your best next steps.